Inai Boku wa Hotarumachi ni Iru

"I Don't Exist in This Firefly City" chapter 9

by Tanaka Miho

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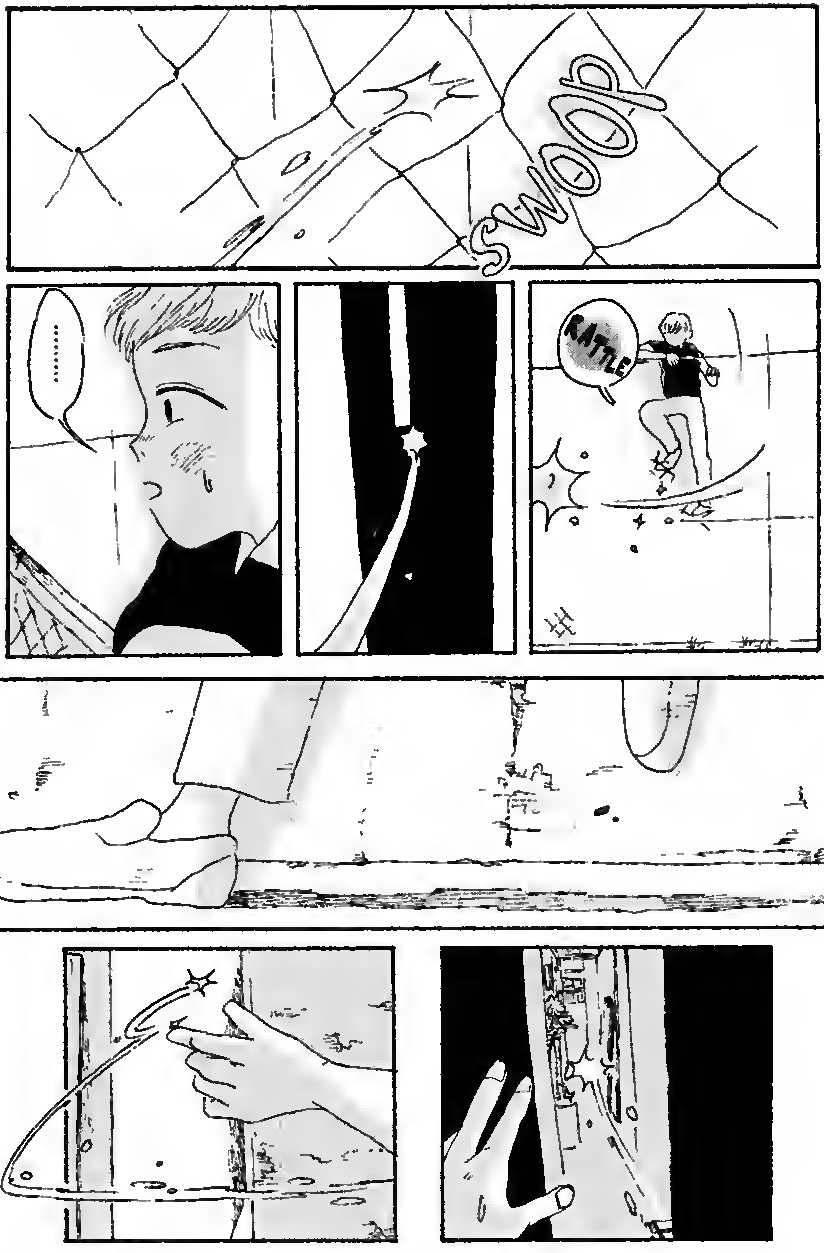
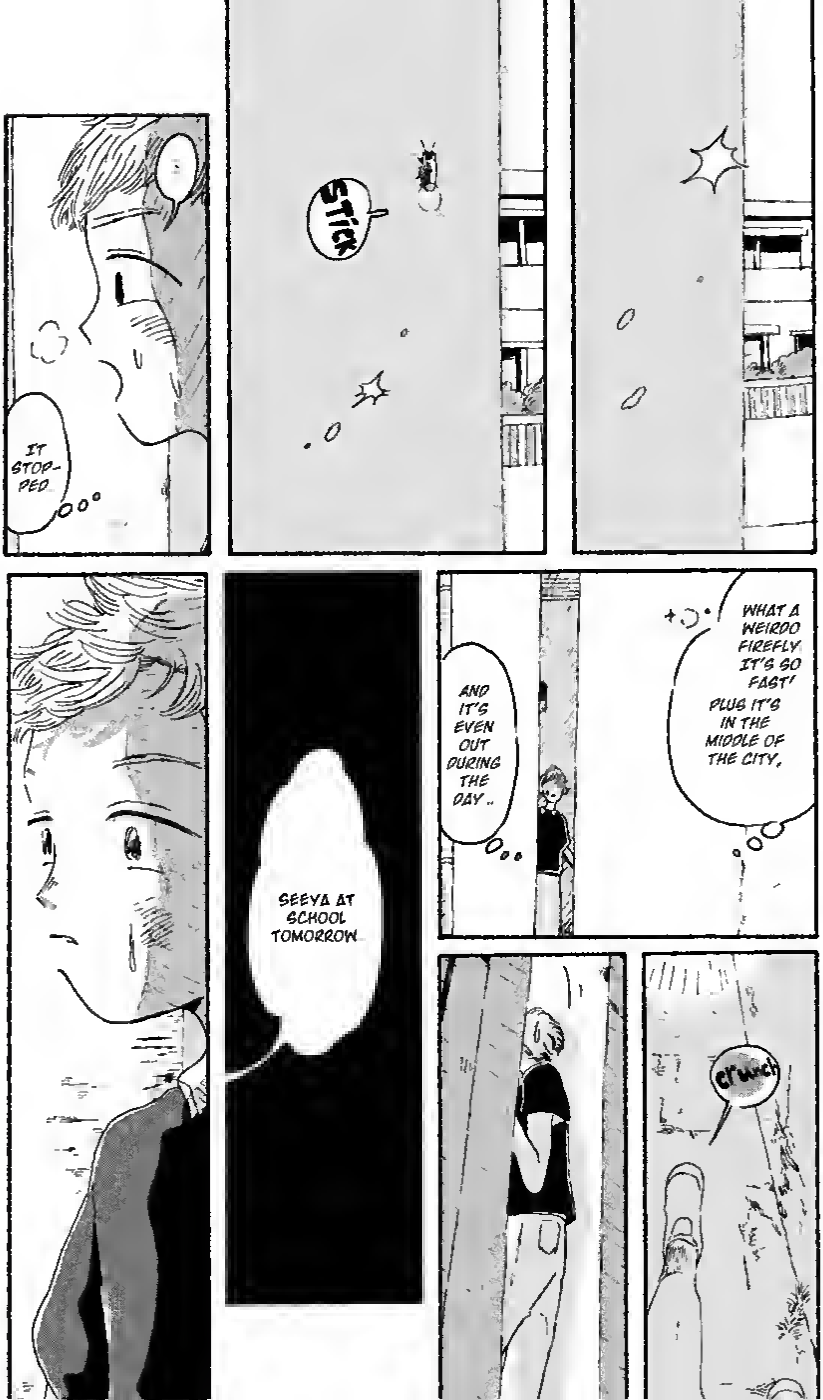
Lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Chapter 9

Who Are You?

chirp


SWOOP
.....
RATTLE

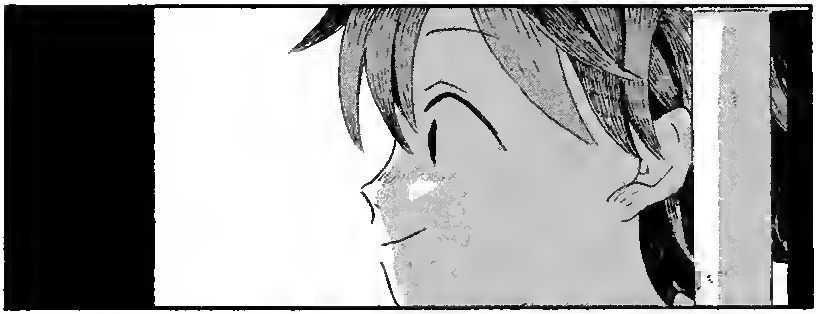

IT STOP-PED
STICK
SEEYA AT SCHOOL TOMORROW
AND IT'S EVEN OUT DURING THE DAY..
WHAT A WEIRDO FIREFLY IT'S SO FAST! PLUS IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY,
CI'tuch

...It's me...
.....

DID I SEE SOME-ONE..?
?
bdmp
bdmp..
jump
HUH!?
A FIREFLY
WOW
NO WAY!

sile...nce
IT'S GONE
SWISH
AH!
WHAT'RE YOU STILL HERE FOR?
WELL...
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
FWOOSH
.....
TAKUYAA!
YOU FORGOT YOUR CAP.
OH.

IT'S STILL THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...
DON'T FIREFLIES USUALLY COME OUT AT NIGHT?
I SHOULD GO LOOKING FOR IT AFTER DARK
HELLO?
SEEYA!
HUH?
FORGET IT
YOU FREE TONIGHT?
HUH?
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN WE PASS BY HERE TOMORROW.
I TOLD YOU, I'VE GOTTA GO OUT WITH MY FAMILY
YEAH!
CLENCH



IT'S TAKERU.

SLIDE
SLIDE...
THAT
WAS ME
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS THIS..?

IN THIS WORLD, YOU SURVIVED.
SURVIVED
YOU
IN THIS WORLD

ANY-WAY,
I'D BETTER GET BACK..
RATTLE
I THINK
THE HOLE'S SMALLER NOW
THAN WHEN I CAME THROUGH
?

BUSTLE
BUSTLE
CRUNCH
I'M BACK...

I was rude to Nakagawa yesterday.
I messed up with the other Takuya.
HAWAII
NOT COOL..
TAKUYA.. NEVER DID STUFF LIKE THAT
SO LAME..

YOU WERE THE KID SNEAKING OFF AFTER SOUSUKE THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
wave wave
rattle
SUN
rattle rattle
SUN
bump
HUH...?
HAWA

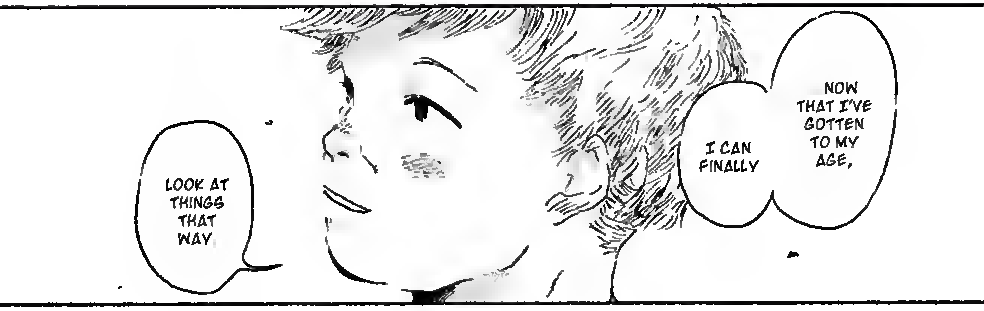
UM, NO
SO YOU KNOW SOUSUKE?
HE JUST REALLY LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW. IT WAS BUGGING ME
HA HA, DON'T WORRY
SUNSUN Cafe
I JUST SAW YOU FROM INSIDE THE SHOP
UM, ARE YOU HIS DAD?
HUH?
HA HA!
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
HE WORKS HERE, SO I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL. WE CHAT A LOT.
NO, NO!
HA HA HA HA!
I JUST EAT HERE A LOT

HA HA
HIS DAD, REALLY?
WELL I DID HAVE A SON
HE PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT TEN YEARS AGO
THERE WAS ANOTHER ACCIDENT NOT LONG AGO
I COULDN'T SAVE THE BOY
I STILL HAVE DREAMS ABOUT IT
THAT GUY HERE IS ALWAYS SMILING,
AND HE'S GOT LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO LOVE HIM
LIKE, HE MUST BE HAPPY
...

HAPPY,
HMM...
HAWAII
YOU THINK? WELL, YOUNGSTERS HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF TROUBLES
ha ha
...
WELL...
...MY DAD ISN'T IN THE PICTURE
EVERY SO OFTEN I STOP AND THINK
THAT IT'D BE NICE IF YOU WERE MY DAD, MR IWAI

...MY DAD LEFT US,
AND WE HAD MOUNTAINS OF DEBT.
MY MOM HAD TO LIVE WITH THE THOUGHT THAT SHE'D DIE PENNILESS ON THE STREETS.
WHEN SHE COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, SHE DECIDED TO TURN ME OVER TO CHILD SERVICES TO KEEP ME SAFE,
AND GO SEARCH FOR MY DAD
BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, SHE ABANDONED THE IDEA AND CHOSE TO STAY WITH ME
THAT'S HOW I CAME TO BE HERE.
...I'VE HAD MY OWN SHARE OF TROUBLES, TOO
LOTS
AND LOTS

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I'D STOP AND FEEL GRATEFUL FOR SOMETHING OR OTHER
BUT EVEN DURING THE ROUGH PATCHES,
WHEN YOU TRULY REALIZE HOW LUCKY YOU ARE
THOSE ARE THE TIMES


NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN TO MY AGE,
I CAN FINALLY
LOOK AT THINGS THAT WAY

HAWAII

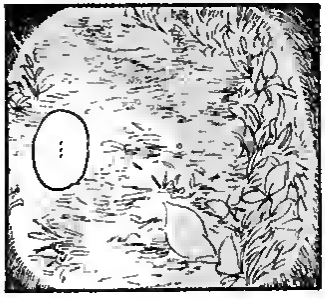
AH!
BUMP
SORRY! I WAS SPACING OUT!
HAH
IT'S KOSAKA

AH!
...
CLICK
...
HAWAII
—!
WHY'S HE JUST WALKING AWAY!?
...
KOSAKA!
HAWAII

DIDN'T
YOUR GLASSES BREAK IT
.....
WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO STEPPED ON THEM
BUT IT'S BECAUSE I BUMPED INTO YOU!
SORRY... I'LL TALK TO MY MOM,
AND WE'LL GET YOU NEW ONES
bow
I'LL BRING THEM OVER TO YOUR PLACE WHEN THEY'RE DONE
I— IT'S FINE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BUT YOU CAN'T SEE!
THAT'S NO GOOD...

NO, IT'S FINE
I WAS PLANNING TO START WEARING CONTACTS NEXT YEAR, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
SO THIS IS LIKE MOVING THE SCHEDULE UP A BIT
I THINK MY MOM WILL BE OK WITH IT
S-STILL, I CAN'T JUST BRUSH IT OFF LIKE THAT
LET ME PAY FOR IT
...
OK
PHEW
THEN IT'S SET!
SEEYA!

Rattle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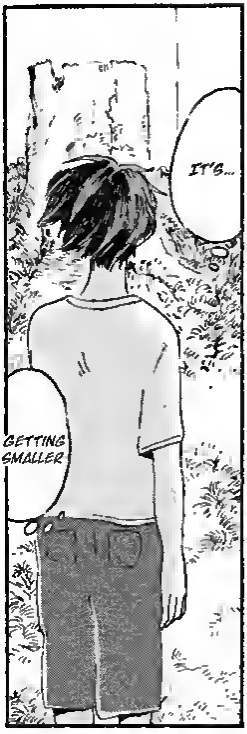
IT'S...
GETTING SMALLER

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME ANYMORE
Spl
at
KSHNK
...
drip
drip
Awa

HA HAHA!
TAKERU! I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!
YOU'RE SOME SPACE ALIEN FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION COME TO TAKE OVER FIREFLY CITY!
LIKE I READ ABOUT IN KOSAKA'S BOOK!
I'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU TO COME BACK
THE FESTIVAL! I JUST STOOD YOU UP
I'M SORRY !!
SORRY!
BOW
HUH?

SORRY
I WAITED AND WAITED AND YOU DIDN'T SHOW
YOU KNOW, THAT WAS REALLY A PAIN...
...
UH...
IT'S JUST... I DIDN'T HAVE ANY WAY TO CALL YOU...
CLICK
WELL, I ONLY WAITED LIKE 15 MINUTES
Pshuu
WHO ARE YOU!?
To be continued